



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## District 2

Vol 20. Scottsdale Police Department District 2 Headquarters 9065 E. Via Linda Scottsdale, AZ 85258 (480) 312-5696 April 2006



### ATM Safety

Over the last 20 years, companies nationwide have increased their production as a result of technology. The consumers have benefited from these advancements, and it gives us nearly instantaneous access to whatever we want. ATMs (Automated Teller Machines) have been located in almost every grocery store, convenience store, and bank facilities. While convenience is very important when deciding where to access your bank account, it should not be the most important factor. Safety should be the first thing to consider when choosing a location to withdraw or deposit your money. Here are some tips to increase your safety at the ATM:

- Avoid isolated locations, especially at night.
- Use ATMs inside an open business whenever possible.
- Be aware of your surroundings and trust your gut feeling. Look around for suspicious persons or vehicles, and avoid the location when either are present.
- Avoid ATMs at night with poor lighting.

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### From The Desk Of Commander Burl Haenel

I wish to take this opportunity to remind you that during the summer months in the City of Scottsdale, residential burglaries increase significantly. As a matter of fact, approximately 75% of all residential burglaries in Scottsdale during the summer are of **NO** forced entry. This means that people leave their windows and or doors either opened or unlocked. This allows an intruder to enter easy and illegally into the residence. Many items are often removed from open garages such as: bicycles, golf clubs, skis, tools and lawn equipment. Statistics have shown that 40% of the homes in a neighborhood on a weekend will leave their garage doors open for an extended period of time. This truly allows for intruders to drive through a neighborhood and easily see from the street what to take.

The Scottsdale Police Department offers a **FREE** Home Security Survey through the Crime Prevention Department. In District 2, please call Officer Mark Ruffennach at (480) 312-5696.

Sincerely,

**Commander Burl Haenel**  
[Bhaenel@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:Bhaenel@scottsdaleaz.gov)

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- Take a friend with you to complete your transaction.
- Be prepared to complete your transaction by having your card ready.
- When entering your personal identification number (PIN), try to keep the number out of view of bystanders.
- Do not withdraw large amounts of cash at one time.
- Secure your money immediately and leave the area.
- Do not allow yourself to be blocked in at a drive up ATM. Let the vehicle in front of you pull far enough away.
- Report suspicious activity immediately to your local police department.
- Always remember, money can be replaced, but people cannot.



Commonly known as *choke out*, *fainting game*, *flat liner*, *pass-out game*, or *space cowboy*, a new “game” has caught the attention of parents and school officials. The choking game is intended to cause asphyxiation by restricting blood flow and/or oxygen to the brain. Children can use their hands, a cloth or any other material to cause this restriction. The restriction of blood or oxygen causes “tingling” or what some children call a “high” in their body. When the pressure or restriction on the neck is released, they get a second “high” due to the increased blood/oxygen flow. The high causes permanent brain cell death, and some coroners are now reviewing past cases of teen suicide to see if they were the result of this deadly game. The February 2006 edition of Reader’s Digest reported over 1,000 deaths have been related to the choking game.

(Choking Game Continued)

The choking game normally involves multiple children restricting each other’s air supply. In some instances, children play it alone, and if they go unconscious, there is no one around to release the pressure on the neck increasing the chances of a fatal end to the game.

Here are some possible warning signs of this game:

- Bruising or red marks around the neck
- Bed sheets, belts, ties, or ropes tied in knots
- Wear marks on furniture from previous incidents
- Headaches, flushed face, bloodshot eyes
- Disorientation after being alone
- Locked doors
- Changes in attitude

Children often do not see the risks involved. The best prevention is to talk to your children about the dangers and consequences of the game.

## Calendar of Events

### 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Scottsdale Culinary Festival

April 18th – 23rd

Various locations in Scottsdale

For more information call (480) 945-7193 or visit: [www.scottsdaleculinaryfestival.org](http://www.scottsdaleculinaryfestival.org)

## The Scottsdale Police Department Wants You!



The Scottsdale Police Department has excellent job opportunities in the following fields:

Police Officer, Police Aide, Communications, Detention Officers, Crime Lab, Records, and Crime Scene Specialists. Visit our website at [www.Scottsdalepd.com](http://www.Scottsdalepd.com) or contact Officer Greg Carlin at 480-312-5384, or e-mail: [gcarlin@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:gcarlin@scottsdaleaz.gov).